

REMARKS

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants request entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment.

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-19 were pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 8 and 15 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 8, 9, 11, and 15 are now pending in this application.

Applicants note that the above-identified application is a divisional of parent application serial no. 09/787,504. The parent application was issued a Restriction Requirement in which the Examiner contended that claims 7-9, 11, and 15 were drawn to a separate invention, (*i.e.*, Group II as defined in the Restriction Requirement). As noted above, claims 8, 9, 11, and 15 are now pending in this application.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite limitations of claim 7, and claim 15 has been amended to recite limitations of claims 1-3. Because claim 8 originally depended from claim 7 and because claim 15 originally depended from claims 1-3, either directly or indirectly, Applicants respectfully contend that the foregoing amendments do not limit the scope of the claimed subject matter.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By M. Scott McBride

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer No. 22428
Telephone: (414) 297-5529
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

M. Scott McBride
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 52,008